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APM-JACKSON-CHINA; 1ST LD-WRITETHRU; A061;200

WASHINGTON (AP) - SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON; RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA; SAID TODAY HE IS ACCEPTING AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION.

THE WASHINGTON DEMOCRAT; AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF MANY SOVIET POLICIES; SAID DETAILS OF THE TRIP AND A DATE HAVE YET TO BE SET.

BUT; HE TOLD REPORTERS: "I'VE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE."

JACKSON'S OFFICE SAID IT IS UNLIKELY HE WILL MAKE THE TRIP BEFORE THE NEXT CONGRESSIONAL RECESS; SCHEDULED FOR THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH.

JACKSON; WHO SPENT A WEEK IN CHINA; TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONSIDER BUYING CHINESE OIL AND ALLOWING U.S. PETROLEUM FIRMS TO DO CONTRACT WORK IN CHINA.

THE SENATOR; CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE; SAID CHINESE OFFICIALS TOLD HIM THAT PETROLEUM RESERVES THERE ARE GREATER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED AND MAY SURPASS THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"THE CHINESE APPEAR TO BE CONVINCED THAT AMERICAN PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY IS SUPERIOR TO THAT AVAILABLE ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD;" JACKSON SAID.

HE SAID THEY ARE INTERESTED IN DEVICES AND INFORMATION ON ENERGY EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION.

"THEY WANT TO PAY CASH;" HE ADDED.

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